

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 240716

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07

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P 091332Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV ENRG EIND MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCANIZATION OF ESSO

REF: RABAT 04607

1. DUE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES AT UN AND VISITS OF MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN RABAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE MEETING TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON ESSO MATTER AS SUGGESTED PARA 4 REFTEL. MOROCCAN ECON COUN BENJELLOUN ASSURES US HIS COUNTRY HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING NEGOTIATIONS AND AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB, DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP TO MOROCCO, MAY RAISE MATTER WITH THE KING.

2. WE ARE TOLD INFORMALLY BY AID THAT IN THEIR VIEW FEARS OF INVOCATION OF HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS ARE PREMATURE AS A MOROCCAN OFFER REMAINS ON THE TABLE REGARDLESS OF ITS ACCEPTABILITY TO ESSO. HOWEVER, INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE WHICH DEALS WITH GENERALIZED SYSTEMS OF PREFERENCE
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ANCES FEELS SOME FURTHER ASSURANCES FROM GOM ARE NECESSARY

TO ENSURE MAINTENANCE OF MOROCCAN GSP ELIGIBILITY. (FYI:
GSP USES LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ
AMENDMENTS AND EXCLUSION OF MOROCCO FROM GSP ELIGIBILITY
COULD CONCEIVABLY HELP TO TRIGGER LEGISLATIVE SANCTION.
IN ORDER TO MEET SCHEDULED TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
GSP, LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES MUST GO TO WHITE HOUSE
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AND, IN ABSENCE OF ASSURANCES, INTER-
AGENCY GROUP NOT PREPARED TO INCLUDE MOROCCO. END FYI)

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY APPROACH GOM AT APPROPRIATE
LEVEL AND OBTAIN MOROCCAN ASSURANCES OF INTENTION TO
CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY
WASHINGTON OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 IF
POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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